

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated February 28, 2006, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration.

Claim Objections

Claims 2-4, 6, 15, 18-19, 23 and 24 stand objected to for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claims 2-4, 18, 19 and 24 the claims stand objected to for use of the term “about.” Claims 2-4, 18 and 24 are amended per the Examiner’s suggestion, and Applicant’s respectfully assert that the claims are in allowable form. Claim 19 was objected to because it depends on claim 18, and therefore is allowable under the same rationale.

Regarding claims 6 and 15, these claims have been canceled without prejudice rendering the objection moot.

Regarding claim 23, the claim stands objected to as being misdescriptive. Claim 23 is amended per the Examiner’s comments. Applicant’s respectfully assert that this claim is in an allowable form.

Claim Rejections 35 USC §102

Claims 7-8, 10-15 and 17-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,499,187 (Smith). Claim 15 is canceled without prejudice, rendering the rejection moot. Applicants respectfully assert that claims 7, 8, 10-14, and 17-19 are patentable over Smith.

Regarding independent claim 7, Smith does not teach, disclose or suggest a power system for receiving and processing power of different voltages including a low-voltage cutout circuit configured to inhibit electrical current from flowing to the at least one electrical device if voltage at the input apparatus is below a low-voltage cutout threshold. Smith discusses an autoselecting interface for connecting an input aircraft power source to one of two outputs according to a sensed voltage on the input (Abstract). The autoselecting interface includes first and second voltage sensors (Col. 3 lines 10-11). The first voltage sensor produces a trigger when an AC voltage is present, and the second voltage sensor produces a trigger when a DC voltage is present

(Col. 3 lines 15-20). Smith does not teach, disclose, or suggest a power system for receiving and processing power of different voltages including a low-voltage cutout circuit configured to inhibit electrical current from flowing to the at least one electrical device if voltage at the input apparatus is below a low-voltage cutout threshold, as recited in claim 7. Thus, for at least these reasons independent claim 7, and claims 8 and 10-13 which depend directly or indirectly from claim 7, are patentable over Smith.

Regarding independent claim 14, Smith does not teach, disclose or suggest a portable power supply including a low-voltage cutoff circuit. Smith discusses an autoselecting interface for connecting an input aircraft power source to one of two outputs according to a sensed voltage on the input (Abstract). The autoselecting interface includes first and second voltage sensors (Col. 3 lines 10-11). The first voltage sensor produces a trigger when an AC voltage is present, and the second voltage sensor produces a trigger when a DC voltage is present (Col. 3 lines 15-20). The triggers discussed in Smith are not the low-voltage cutoff circuit configured to inhibit power to the plurality of output connectors if the voltage at the input cord is below a low-voltage cutoff threshold recited in claim 14. Thus, for at least these reasons, independent claim 14, and claims 17-19 which depend directly or indirectly from claim 14, are patentable over Smith.

Claim Rejections 35 USC §103

Claims 1-6, 9 and 20-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,885,016 (Worley). Claim 6 is canceled without prejudice rendering the rejection moot. Applicants respectfully assert the claims 1-5, 9, and 20-25 are patentable over Smith in view of Worley.

Regarding independent claim 1, neither Smith or Worley alone or in combination teach, disclose or suggest a power adapter including a low-voltage cutout circuit configured to inhibit electrical current from flowing through the switch if the voltage input power is below a low-voltage cutout threshold. Smith discusses an autoselecting interface for connecting an input aircraft power source to one of two outputs according to a sensed voltage on the input (Abstract). The autoselecting interface includes first and second voltage sensors (Col. 3 lines 10-11). The first voltage sensor produces a trigger when an AC voltage is present, and the second voltage sensor produces a trigger when a DC voltage is present (Col. 3 lines 15-20). Worley discusses an AC to DC flyback switching power supply including an integrated circuit which combines a

secondary reference threshold function, an opto control function, and a primary power switching control function into a single packing using a silicon based LED (Col. 1 lines 10-16). Worley provides a zener diode to limit the voltage on the power supply node to protect the circuit from over voltage damage (Col. 9 lines 50-55). The voltage switches discussed in both Smith and Worley are not a low-voltage cutout circuit. In contrast, claim 1 recites a power adapter including an input configured to receive input power, a switch coupled to the input and configured to selectively couple the input to one of a low-voltage output and a high-voltage output, the switch being in one of a low-voltage position and a high-voltage position, respectively, a selector circuit coupled to the input and to the switch and configured to provide a control signal to the switch such that the switch will be in the low-voltage position if the input receives input power having a DC voltage lower than a threshold voltage and will be in the high-voltage position if the input power has an AC voltage higher than the threshold voltage, and a low-voltage cutout circuit configured to inhibit electrical current from flowing through the switch if the voltage input power is below a low-voltage cutout threshold. For at least these reasons, independent claim 1, and claims 2-5 that directly depend from claim 1, are patentable over Smith in view of Worley.

Regarding dependent claim 9, the Applicants respectfully assert that claim 9 is patentable over Smith in view of Worley. The Examiner does not assert that Worley does not make up for the deficiencies of Smith noted above with respect to independent claim 7. Thus, for at least these reasons, claim 9 that indirectly depends from claim 7 is patentable over Smith in view of Worley.

Regarding independent claim 20, Smith and Worley, alone or in combination, do not teach, disclose or suggest a method of providing an appropriate level of DC power including automatically decoupling the received input power from the high-voltage apparatus and the low-voltage apparatus if the input power has a voltage below a second threshold, and outputting the DC power if the input power has voltage above the second threshold. Smith discusses an autoselecting interface for connecting an input aircraft power source to one of two outputs according to a sensed voltage on the input (Abstract). The autoselecting interface includes first and second voltage sensors (Col. 3 lines 10-11). The first voltage sensor produces a trigger when an AC voltage is present, and the second voltage sensor produces a trigger when a DC voltage is present (Col. 3 lines 15-20). Worley discusses an AC to DC flyback switching power supply

including an integrated circuit which combines a secondary reference threshold function, an opto control function, and a primary power switching control function into a single packing using a silicon based LED (Col. 1 lines 10-16). Worley provides a zener diode to limit the voltage on the power supply node to protect the circuit from over voltage damage (Col. 9 lines 50-55). The voltage switches discussed in both Smith and Worley disclose decoupling the input power from either the AC or DC load if the power drops below a threshold. In contrast, claim 20 recites a method of providing an appropriate level of DC power, the method including: receiving input power, automatically coupling the received input power to a high-voltage apparatus if the input power has a voltage above a first threshold, automatically coupling the received input power to a low-voltage apparatus if the input power has a voltage below the first threshold, automatically decoupling the received input power from the high-voltage apparatus and the low-voltage apparatus if the input power has a voltage below a second threshold, processing the input power in an appropriate one of the high-voltage apparatus and the low-voltage apparatus to produce the appropriate level of DC power, and outputting the DC power if the input power has voltage above the second threshold. Thus, for at least these reasons, independent claim 20, and claims 21-25 that depend directly and indirectly from claim 20, are patentable over Smith in view of Worley.

Claim 16 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith. As noted above, Applicants respectfully assert that independent 14 is patentable over Smith. Thus, for at least these reasons, claim 16 which directly depends on claim 14 is patentable over Smith.

Based on the foregoing, this application is believed to be in allowable condition, and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to call Applicants' Attorney at the number provided below with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



T. J. Clark, Esq.
Registration No. 54,039
MINTZ, LEVIN, COHN, FERRIS
GLOVSKY and POPEO, P.C.
One Financial Center
Boston, MA 02111
Telephone 617/348-3022
Attorneys for Applicants

Date: July 28, 2006

TRA 2170097v.1